

ER 61-1415/a

23 MAR 1961

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Mr. Abbott Washburn
United States Information Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Abbott:

Thank you for your letter of 20 February 1961. I read with keen interest the program for the development of education in emerging countries which you and Wally Nielsen have so well presented.

I believe the "handle" you have suggested for the proposed program is a provocative designation.

A coordinated educational program designed to increase the supply of trained manpower in the emerging areas is certainly of prime importance.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

STAT [] esh (14 March 61)

Rewritten: AWD:blp (22 March 61)

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Executive Register

61-74851A

Mr. Abbott Washburn
~~Acting Director~~
United States Information Agency
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Abbott,

Thank you for your letter of 20 February 1961. I read with keen interest the program for the development of education in emerging countries which you and Wally Nielsen have so well presented.

I believe the "handle" you have suggested for the proposed program is a provocative designation.

A coordinated educational program designed to increase sharply and quickly the supply of trained manpower in the emerging areas will undoubtedly be of interest to those in the Administration who are concerned with the development of new foreign aid programs.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

cc:DDCI

Signature Recommended:

9 MAR 1961

(14 March 1961)

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100-44511

15 MAR 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director (Plans)

10 MAR 1961

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SUBJECT: Program for Development of Education in Emerging Countries

1. This memorandum is for the DCI's information and action. Such action is recommended in paragraph 8.

2. Attached (Enclosure A) is Abbott Washburn's and Wally Nielsen's program for the development of education in emerging countries sent to the DCI with Mr. Washburn's letter of 20 February 1961. It is my understanding that Mr. W. W. Rostow is extremely interested in Mr. Washburn's proposals.

3. The Washburn-Nielsen program is not new; its features are contained in Chapter III of the Sprague Report (Conclusions and Recommendations of the President's Committee on Information Activities Abroad, December 1960). In some instances of similarity, I found the Sprague Report proposals more meaningful and precise. For example, the Washburn-Nielsen program advocates the general development of teacher personnel. The Sprague Report recommends the establishment of teacher training institutes to increase the numbers and quality of indigenous teachers.

4. The basic concept of a larger, better coordinated program designed to increase sharply and quickly the supply of trained manpower in the developing areas and to equip those areas to continue such programs on their own is, of course, vitally necessary. I do not believe that certain features of the program presented by Messrs. Washburn and Nielsen fully meet the need, nor are one or two aspects necessarily desirable. I am dubious about spending considerable sums to establish three "great" regional universities, when it has become obvious that the expansion of secondary, technical and vocational education in underdeveloped countries are priority prerequisites for increasing the supply of skilled and technically trained manpower needed by the economies of emerging countries. The establishment of regional universities should be considered after programs to extend secondary, vocational, technical and adult education are well underway.

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5. Messrs. Washburn and Nielsen call for the "stimulation of other nations to participate fully with us in this work, either individually or through the UN, OAS, etc." I question the wisdom of associating a U.S. overseas educational program with the UN. Such association might diffuse the impact of the program and compound the problems UNESCO faces in its present, unsuccessful efforts to extend primary and secondary education in underdeveloped areas.

6. Until the Peace Corps' programs, policies, objectives and activities have been carefully defined, I would be apprehensive about relating the Corps with the education program, as suggested by Messrs. Washburn-Nielsen.

7. But more important than the above considerations is the fact that the educational development program, if pursued, must have political direction, must serve practical U.S. political objectives. While it cannot be depicted as such, the program should be an arm of U.S. foreign policy. An educational program of the dimensions recommended by both the Sprague Report and Washburn-Nielsen, if indiscriminately carried out as a purely do-good effort with purely idealistic objectives and surrounded and encumbered by "ginicky" terminology, might very easily result in more condemnation than praise for the U.S. Serious consideration of the Nielsen-Washburn proposal should include attention to structuring the program so as to permit the U.S. government to be in the position of insuring that the program in fact promotes U.S. policy.

8. It is recommended that the DCI, at this time, merely acknowledge receipt of Mr. Washburn's letter, express very general approval of the program and state that the proposals will undoubtedly be of interest to those who are planning the Administration's foreign aid programs. It is suggested that the DCI sign and forward the attached letter to Mr. Washburn (Enclosure B) which contains these expressions and attitudes.


CORD MEYER, JR.

Chief

International Organizations Division

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Enclosures:

- A. Abbott Washburn's letter of 20 February 1961
with Attachment
- B. Letter to Mr. Washburn

cc:DDCI

*I vigorously agree with
the above views*

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9 FEB 1961

ER: 61-1035/A

Honorable Abbott Washburn
Acting Director
United States Information Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Abbott:

Many thanks for sending me the additional
album of "U. S. Postage Stamps of International
Significance."

This is indeed an excellent collection,
and I have put the other one to good use.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

SIGNED

John F. Dulles
Director

STAT

O/DCI [redacted] vgd 9 Feb 61

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9 FEB 1961

ER: 61-1035/A

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United States Information Agency
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Director

O/DCI

vgd 9 Feb 61

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